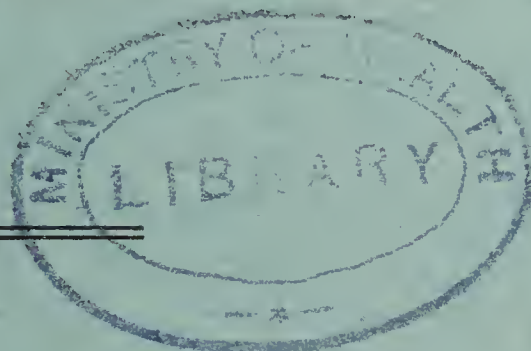


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Northwich Rural District Council.



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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ended 31st Dec., 1953.

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NORTHWICH :

W. HOBSON & SON, LTD., PRINTERS.



Northwich Rural District Council.

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# Northwich Rural District Council.

## Health Report for 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northwich  
Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the District during the year 1953.

### SECTION A.

#### STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	57,547 acres
Population — Registrar-General's latest estimate of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	41,920
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953)	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,117
Rateable Value (1st October, 1953)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£221,238
Sum represented by a penny rate (year 1952/53)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£839 12s. 10d.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

		Total	M.	F.		
Live Births	Legitimate ..	862	436	426	{	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population
	Illegitimate ..	26	10	16		21.18
						After adjustment by the Comparability Factor .. .. . 19.69
Still Births	Legitimate ..	16	8	8	{	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births .. .. . 18.78
	Illegitimate ..	1	1	—		
Deaths..	..	345	186	159		Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population .. 8.23
						After adjustment by the Comparability Factor .. .. . 9.13

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1000 live births	..	..	..	..	29.28
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	27.84
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	76.92

Deaths from Cancer (all ages), including 5 of the lung	..	..	..	..	47
„ „ Diphtheria (all ages)	..	..	..	..	—
„ „ Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	1
„ „ Meningococcal Infections (all ages)	..	..	..	..	1
„ „ Acute Poliomyelitis (all ages)	..	..	..	..	—
„ „ Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	—



The following table compares the main statistics for 1953 with the years 1942-1952:—

Year.	Popu- lation	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	No. of Deaths from Cancer	No. of Deaths from Tubercu- losis
1942.	29,800	.. 16.17	.. 10.36	.. 45.64	.. 43	.. 9
1943.	28,900	.. 16.47	.. 10.72	.. 37.81	.. 40	.. 11
1944.	28,730	.. 18.16	.. 10.47	.. 30.65	.. 52	.. 14
1945.	28,460	.. 17.39	.. 11.59	.. 50.50	.. 55	.. 18
1946.	29,640	.. 18.04	.. 11.57	.. 28.03	.. 48	.. 13
1947.	30,650	.. 20.22	.. 11.97	.. 29.03	.. 56	.. 5
1948.	31,790	.. 18.71	.. 10.09	.. 23.56	.. 42	.. 4
1949.	32,660	.. 18.21	.. 9.76	.. 42.01	.. 70	.. 5
1950.	34,970	.. 19.98	.. 11.55	.. 37.19	.. 72	.. 11
1951.	38,310	.. 20.75	.. 11.30	.. 32.70	.. 66	.. 7
1952.	40,440	.. 19.98	.. 9.59	.. 28.46	.. 61	.. 7
1953.	41,920	.. 21.18	.. 8.23	.. 29.28	.. 47	.. 3

### CAUSES OF DEATH — 1953

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	MALES.	FEMALES	TOTAL.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .. ...	3	—	3
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease ... ..	1	—	1
4. Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ... ..	1	—	1
6. Meningococcal Infections .. ...	1	—	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—
8. Measles .. ...	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ... ..	1	—	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	5	5	10
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus... ..	4	1	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	5	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms... ..	10	16	26
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	1	2	3
16. Diabetes ... ..	1	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	27	23	50
18. Coronary disease, angina ... ..	22	13	35
19. Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	2	4	6
20. Other heart disease ... ..	24	34	58
21. Other circulatory disease ... ..	8	5	13
22. Influenza ... ..	2	—	2
23. Pneumonia ... ..	12	7	19
24. Bronchitis ... ..	10	9	19
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	—	3	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	—	2	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	1	1	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis... ..	6	3	9
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	4	—	4
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ... ..	3	1	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	21	15	36
33. Motor vehicle accidents... ..	5	2	7
34. All other accidents ... ..	9	5	14
35. Suicide ... ..	2	1	3
36. Homicide and operations of war ... ..	—	—	—
TOTAL	186	159	345

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

#### (1) Staff.

W. S. Slater, M.B. Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health, Hartford Hill, Darwin Street, Northwich, Cheshire.	(Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts, the County Council and the North and Mid- Cheshire Hospital Man- agement Committee).
Clerical Staff.	1 person (whole-time).	(Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts).
J. S. Carrie, Cert. R.S.I. Cert. Meat & Food Inspection. Cert. Sani- tary Science. Cert. Smoke Inspection & Boiler House Manage- ment. Hon. Cert. Hygiene R.I. Public Health & Hygiene.	Chief Sanitary Inspector. Whitehall, Hartford, Cheshire.	(Northwich Rural Dis- trict only).
W. P. Musgrave Cert. R.S.I.	Additional Sanitary Inspector.	-do-
H. R. Worsley.	Assistant Sanitary Inspector.	-do-
Clerical Staff.	2 persons (whole-time).	-do-

#### (2) Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory Services in Manchester, which are provided free of charge to the Northwich Rural District Council, proved adequate during the year. In addition, this Service has co-operated in the transport of the samples twice monthly from this area. Details of the samples and specimens are given later in the report.

#### (3) Environmental Services.

Details of the other Services, e.g. Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, etc., etc., provided by the Northwich Rural District are recorded later in this report.

(4) The Cheshire County Council have Officers discharging duties in the Rural Area under the following Services:— School

Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare, including Milk Food Sales, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures Inspection, Specialist Services, e.g. Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Paediatric, Home and Domiciliary Midwifery Services, Speech Therapy, Residential and Temporary Accommodation, etc., etc.

(5) Davenham Isolation Hospital, under the North and Mid-Cheshire Hospital Management Committee, provided Hospital treatment for the area's Infectious cases and during the year admitted 176 patients from the Northwich Rural District, out of a total of 238.

The proposal of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board to convert this Hospital for Maternity purposes was considered by the Council towards the end of the year.

(6) The Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee (under the auspices of the County Council) provided the following Services:—

**(a) Vaccination and Immunisation Schemes.**

The work done during the year 1953 in Northwich Rural District is detailed as follows.

**Diphtheria Immunisation.**

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	...	...	532
School Children	...	...	...	...	...	144
Re-immunised	...	...	...	...	...	612
Total						1,288

**Whooping Cough Immunisation.**

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	...	...	326
School Children	...	...	...	...	...	20
Total						346

**Vaccination against Smallpox.**

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	352
1—5 years	...	...	...	...	...	61
School Children	...	...	...	...	...	37
Adults	...	...	...	...	...	130
Total						580

The protective treatments against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Smallpox remain a free service under the National Health Service Act.



(b) **Sitting Case Car and Ambulance Service.**

The service in the area continued to deal with Northwich Rural patients expeditiously and without serious complaint throughout the year.

(c) **Prevention of Illness — Care and After Care.**

Nursing requisites and after-care equipment were loaned for the use of the sick and needy in a number of homes during the year.

(d) **Domestic Help Service.**

Domestic Helps have been provided during 1953 in 73 households in the Rural District. The kind of cases assisted included old age, confinement and tuberculosis, etc.

## **SECTION C.**

### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

**Water Supplies.**—During the year the Mid & South East Cheshire Water Board carried out the laying of a new main to supplement the supply in the Parishes of Weaverham, Little Leigh and Barnton.

**Water Samples.**—The Water Board has submitted to me for information, 69 copies of the Analyst's Reports on samples of water taken in the Northwich Rural District, all of which were reported upon as satisfactory.

In addition, the Public Health Department has taken 16 samples of drinking water and submitted them to the Public Health Laboratory for report. 15 of these were satisfactory and 1 unsatisfactory. In the case of the unsatisfactory sample, steps were taken by the Water Board to chlorinate the section of main concerned and further sampling proved satisfactory.

**Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.**—The following statement, for which I am indebted to Mr. J. B. Birtwistle, the Engineer and Surveyor of the Council, sets out in some detail the main drainage schemes and activities of the Council during 1953:—

**“Delamere Area.**—A scheme for the drainage of the Station Road area of Delamere was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for consideration, the discussions with the Water Board regarding protection of Water Gathering Grounds having been finalised. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government held an Inquiry into the scheme and it is hoped that early in 1954 the work will be proceeding.

**Cotebrook Village, Parish of Utkinton.**—Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works were completed during the year and various properties connected thereto.

**Little Budworth.**—In view of the change of circumstances regarding the Sewage Disposal Works built by the Ministry of Works to serve Oulton Park Camp, the Council reconsidered this matter and now a new scheme will be formulated providing for the construction of a new works downstream of the old Mill.

**Moulton.**—Ministry approval was received to the scheme for the abandonment of the old Moulton Sewage Disposal Works and filter beds, the scheme providing for the gravitation of the sewage to the Mereheath Pumping Station, which Pumping Station is to be extended and from there it will be discharged to a gravity system of sewers serving the Parish of Davenham. During the year, the work reached an advanced stage of completion and the complete abandonment of the Moulton works will take place early in 1954.

**Davenham.**—Ministry of Housing and Local Government approval was obtained to the Council's scheme providing for the extension of Davenham Sewage Disposal Works. The extension is necessary because of the housing development at Leftwich by the Northwich U.D.C., the Council's own development in the Parish of Davenham and the proposals to abandon the Moulton Disposal Works. The work reached an advanced stage of construction during the year and will be completed about the middle of 1954.

**Barnton.**—The Council's proposals to provide an almost complete new Sewage Disposal Works at Riverside, which would enable the old works at Gunnersclough to be abandoned, was the subject of a Ministry of Housing and Local Government Inquiry. The Council visited London late in the year for discussions regarding this scheme with the Ministry, when it was tentatively agreed that the work should go forward in April, 1954. The Ministry, however, wished to limit the scope of the scheme by deleting, for the time being, the inter-connecting sewer which would enable the abandonment of Gunnersclough Works. Late in the year, however, there was a serious collapse of the old Gunnersclough Works, which resulted in the Council pressing the Ministry to allow the scheme to go forward, and this was finally agreed to.

The proposals at Barnton include for capacity at the Works and in the inter-connecting sewers at Gunnersclough, which will enable Anderton to be sewered thereto, and in due course the Council will be submitting to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government proposals for the sewerage of Anderton.

**Weaverham.**—Because of the very extensive housing development in the Parish of Weaverham, it had become quite obvious during the year that the Weaverham Sewage Disposal Works were being called upon to deal with a greater number of houses than that for which they were designed. Accordingly, proposals for the extension of these were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, who held an Inquiry, the result of which is awaited.



**General.**—The Council's housing development in various Parishes has caused an additional length of both foul sewers and surface water drains to be laid, the flow to the various Sewage Disposal Works concerned being, of course, increased."

During the year, the Public Health Department submitted 17 samples of Sewage Effluent to the Public Analyst, with the following results:—

15 — Satisfactory  
2 — Unsatisfactory.

The two unsatisfactory effluents were from the Gunnersclough and Riverside Sewage Works.

Under the following headings, Mr. J. S. Carrie, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows:—

**Closet Accommodation.**—During the year, 22 conversions were carried out under the Council's Grant Aid Scheme.

**"Night Soil" Collection.**—Collection is now undertaken in the following parishes:—

Marston	Little Leigh
Wincham	Rudheath (part)
Acton	Darnhall (part)
Crowton	Lach Dennis (part)
Cuddington (part)	Wimboldsley (part)
Weaverham (part)	Stanthorne (part)
Anderton	Lostock Gralam (part)
Comberbach	Bostock (part)
Oakmere	Utkinton (part)
Delamere	Cotebrook

**Public Cleansing Services.**—The Council operates a comprehensive house-refuse collection service throughout the area, collection taking place fortnightly. The scavenging fleet consists of the following vehicles:—

1 S.D. Freighter	1 Dennis Nightsoil and Cesspool
1 Bedford	Emptyer
2 Dennis Paxits	1 Aveling-Barford Calfdozer for
2 Dennis Freighters	Operation of Controlled Tipping

The labour force employed consists of:—

1 General Foreman	1 Calfdozer Operator
6 Drivers	19 Scavenging Loaders

During the year, 3,683 loads of refuse were removed and disposed of in the reclamation of land. In addition, 482 cesspools and septic tanks were pumped and cleansed.

**Salvage of Waste Materials.**—The salvage of waste materials has been well maintained. The total income from sales amounted to £2,682, as against £2,575 for the previous year. The following materials were salvaged:—

					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Paper	...	...	...	...	306	18	2	—
Scrap Metals	...	...	...	...	—	5	2	13
Textiles	...	...	...	...	7	5	2	25

**Destruction of Rats and Mice.**—320 premises were treated, involving 1,724 operational visits. The contract figure for the period amounted to £319 and the amounts received in connection with isolated clearances totalled £46. The Council again operated jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the treatment of rats in sewers and received appropriate grants.

**Recreational Sites and Playing Fields.**—Under this heading Mr. Birtwistle reports:—

“Assistance has been given by the Council to various Parish Councils regarding the development of Recreation Sites, Playing Fields and Village Hall Sites, and information has been collected from various sources regarding types of building available for erection as Parish Halls.”

**Swimming Baths and Pools.**—There are no public swimming baths in the Council's district, but the following private baths have been in use during the year:—

Fourways Cafe, Oakmere	
I.C.I., Marbury Hall Park	} Not available to general public.
I.C.I., Acton	

During July and August, five samples of swimming baths' water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, all of which were reported upon satisfactorily.

**Common Lodging Houses.**—There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Rural District.

**Camping Sites.**— The following Camping Sites were in operation throughout the Council's district during the year:—

1. Tarporley Road, Acton. (Taylor).
2. Allways Filling Station, Allostock. (Gore).
3. Sandy Lane, Allostock. (Worth).
4. Off Stoney Lane, Delamere. (Beckwith).
5. Off Stoney Lane, Delamere. (Speechley).
6. Mill House Farm, Little Budworth. (Booth).
7. Forest View Inn, Oakmere. (Clarke).
8. Mushroom Cottage, Oakmere. (Forster).
9. Chester Road, Oakmere. (Harrington's).
10. Crabtree Green, Oakmere. (Worth).
11. Off Earles Lane, Wincham. (Platt).

In addition to the above, 17 licences were issued for the stationing of individual caravans in the district.



**SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.**  
**Statement of Inspections made and Notices Issued.**

Nature of Inspections made.	Number.	Informal Notices		Statutory Notices	
		Issued	Compl- ed with	Issued	Compl- ed with
1. Dwelling Houses (general inspection) ..	579	175	118	43	34
2. Dwelling Houses (overcrowding) ..	329	—	—	—	—
3. Moveable Dwellings .. ..	232	3	1	3	3
4. Sanitary Accommodation .. ..	681	10	10	—	—
5. Drainage, Septic Tanks and Cesspools ..	814	43	38	—	—
6. Ditches and Watercourses .. ..	28	6	4	—	—
7. Offensive Accumulations .. ..	23	4	4	—	—
8. Keeping of Animals .. ..	31	5	5	—	—
9. Provision of Ashbins .. ..	191	21	17	—	—
10. Supervision of Refuse Tips .. ..	69	—	—	—	—
11. Supervision of Refuse Collections ..	114	—	—	—	—
12. Slaughterhouses .. ..	28	—	—	—	—
13. Bakehouses and other places where food is prepared .. ..	249	6	6	—	—
14. Dairies and Cowsheds .. ..	65	6	6	—	—
15. Factories etc. .. ..	69	—	—	—	—
16. Protection & sampling of Water Supplies	16	—	—	—	—
17. Canal Boats .. ..	8	—	—	—	—
18. Infectious Diseases and Investigations ..	158	—	—	—	—
19. Schools, Inspections and Disinfections ..	40	—	—	—	—
20. Disinfection of Premises .. ..	174	5	5	—	—
21. Deratisation of Premises .. ..	1724	—	—	—	—
22. Smoke Observations .. ..	2	—	—	—	—
23. Miscellaneous Disinfestations .. ..	102	—	—	—	—
24. Control of Swimming Baths .. ..	5	—	—	—	—
25. Hair-dressing Establishments .. ..	26	—	—	—	—
26. Occupational Health Survey .. ..	988	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	6745	284	214	46	37

**FACTORIES ACTS — 1937 and 1948.****Part I of the Act.**

1.—Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		In-spections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories without mechanical power ..	14	2	—	—
Factories with mechanical power ..	135	62	—	—
Other premises .. .. .	98	5	—	—
Total .. .. .	247	69	—	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found:—

Particulars.	Number cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness.. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective .. ..	—	2	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	1	—	1	—	—
TOTALS ..	1	2	1	2	—

**Outworkers.**—List required by Section 110 was received relating to 1 outworker engaged in making wearing apparel.

## SECTION D. HOUSING.

**New Houses.**—The Parishes in which the houses have been erected are as shown in the following schedule:—

Parishes.	PRIVATE HOUSES COMPLETED	COUNCIL HOUSES COMPLETED.
Acton ... ..	1	—
Allostock ... ..	3	—
Anderton ... ..	1	—
Barnton ... ..	1	74
Comberbach ... ..	1	2
Cuddington ... ..	7	—
Darnall ... ..	2	—
Davenham ... ..	8	4
Delamere ... ..	2	—
Hartford ... ..	4	—
Little Leigh ... ..	2	—
Lostock Gralam ... ..	4	48
		+ 3 shops
Moulton ... ..	—	12
Rudheath ... ..	3	—
Tarporley ... ..	—	4
Utkinton ... ..	1	—
Weaverham ... ..	1	212
Total .. ..	41	356
		+ 3 shops

**Unfit Houses.**—During the year, 34 houses were demolished, 26 by statutory action and 8 by agreement. Details of the properties concerned are as follows:—

By Statutory Action.	No. of persons re-housed as a result.	
	Adults	Children
“Brook Cottage,” Eaton Villa, Rushton ...	—	—
20, Ollershaw Lane, Marston ... ..	4	—
“Handforth Cottage,” Weaverham ... ..	1	—
13, Senna Lane, Comberbach ... ..	—	—
15, Senna Lane, Comberbach ... ..	5	—
“Clovelly,” Moss Lane, Wincham ... ..	—	—
“Sunbeam,” Moss Lane, Wincham ... ..	2	3
Keeper’s Cottage, Wincham ... ..	8	2
The Bungalow, The Green, Lach Dennis	—	—
23, Runcorn Road, Barnton ... ..	5	—
27, Oakwood Lane, Barnton ... ..	2	1
29, Oakwood Lane, Barnton ... ..	2	1
Sycamore Bank Cottage, Rushton ... ..	—	—
Sycamore Bank Cottage, Rushton ... ..	—	—
98, High Street, Tarporley ... ..	—	—
100, High Street, Tarporley ... ..	—	—
Bungalow, Tunnel End, Little Leigh ...	—	—

Cottage, School Lane, Little Leigh	...	—	—
1, Tunnel Road, Barnton	... ..	3	—
24, Tunnel Road, Barnton	... ..	4	—
26, Tunnel Road, Barnton	... ..	4	—
28, Tunnel Road, Barnton	... ..	2	—
Cottage, Cross Lanes, Byley	... ..	—	—
Cottage, Cross Lanes, Byley	... ..	—	—
Cottage, Cross Lanes, Byley	... ..	—	—
22, Runcorn Road, Barnton	... ..	5	2
Total		47	9

By Agreement: Shell Cottage, Rushton.  
 Shell Cottage, Rushton.  
 9, Runcorn Road, Barnton.  
 Smoke Hall Cottage, Moulton.  
 20, Runcorn Road, Barnton.  
 Cottage, Cobbler's Cross, Tarporley.  
 Pool Pit Cottage, Marston.  
 Pool Pit Cottage, Marston.

The total number of houses subject to Demolition Order and occupied under Regulation 68AA, Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, are as follows:—

Rushton ... 3 houses      Barnton ... 2 houses

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

**Milk.**—During the year, 86 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, with the following results:—

GRADE.	METHYLENE BLUE TEST.		PHOSPHATASE TEST.	
	Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.
Ungraded ...	13	—	—	—
"Accredited" (Raw)	—	—	—	—
"T.T." (Raw)	4	2	—	—
"Pasteurised"	41	3	41	3
"T.T. Pasteurised"...	22	1	22	1

20 samples were also submitted to the Laboratory for examination for Tubercle Bacilli, all with negative results.



The licences held under the Milk (Special Designations) Order for the year include:—

Authorising dealers to use the special designation “Tuberculin Tested”:—

(a) in respect of the sale of bottled milk only ... ..	23
(b) in respect of licence to bottle ... ..	3

Authorising dealers to use the special designation “Pasteurised”:—

(a) in respect of the sale of bottled milk only ... ..	24
(b) in respect of licence to bottle ... ..	3

Supplementary licences authorising the use of the special designation “Tuberculin Tested” ... .. 13

Supplementary licences authorising the use of the special designation “Pasteurised” ... .. 13

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Veterinary Officers were notified of and dealt with cases of tuberculosis occurring in 44 herds.

**Meat.**—No regular slaughtering has taken place at slaughter-houses within the district, as all sixteen premises are closed due to the operation of the Ministry of Food’s Order.

**Slaughter of Animals Act.**—47 suspected cases of Anthrax were reported under this Act, none of which was confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

1 case of Swine Fever was confirmed and appropriate action taken.

**Other Foods.**—The following is a summary of meat and other foods condemned during the year:—

9 lbs. Ham	1 tin Corned Beef
10 lbs. Coconut	3 tins Condensed Milk
21 lbs. Prunes	8 tins Grapefruit
1,321 lbs. Beef	3 tins Ham
169 lbs. Pork	5 lbs. Sausage
31 tins Luncheon Meat	6 lbs. Tongue
8 tins Evaporated Milk	18 lbs. Gammon
3 tins Tomatoes	10 lbs. Boiled Ham
1 tin Sardines	7 lbs. Pressed Beef
1 tin Soup	14 tins Liquid Egg
1 tin Beans	6 lbs. Veal
5 tins Peas	6½ cwt. Cheese
2 tins Cherries	1 Beast’s Head
1 tin Pears	1 Shoulder Mutton (20 lbs.)

**Food & Drugs Act, 1938.**—The Council has on Register the following food preparing premises:—

16 Cafes	35 Canteens
11 Fried Fish Shops	63 Ice Cream premises
31 Butchers' premises	14 Hotels as Catering Establishments
21 Bakehouses	

Periodic visits have been paid throughout the year and a high standard of hygiene maintained. All premises were circularised with regard to precautions to be taken for the prevention of food poisoning.

**Ice Cream.**—4 premises hold licences for the sale and manufacture of ice cream and 50 premises for the sale only of ice cream as received from other licensed manufacturers.

The Department took 18 samples during the year, with the following results:—

18 Hot Mix — Grade 1 — 16 samples
„ 2 — 2 „

**Artificial Cream.**—In this connection, 21 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, resulting as follows:—

12 Satisfactory
9 Unsatisfactory

Appropriate action followed unsatisfactory results.

In addition, the following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Northwich Rural District during the year 1953:—

Name of Sample.	Number obtained.	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality.
Arrowroot ... ..	1	—
Aspirin Tablets ... ..	1	—
Baking Powder ... ..	1	—
Boracic Acid Powder ... ..	1	—
Boracic Ointment ... ..	1	—
Butter ... ..	1	—
Castor Oil ... ..	1	—
Cheese ... ..	1	—
Cheese (processed) ... ..	1	—
Choc-Biscuit ... ..	1	1
Chocolate Eggs (cream filled)	1	—
Chocolate Bars ... ..	1	—
Cooking Fat ... ..	1	—
Coffee (ground) ... ..	1	—
Fish Paste (Salmon & Shrimp)	1	—
Flavouring (Fruit Cake) ...	1	—
Glauber's Salt ... ..	1	—

Glycerine	...	...	1	...	—
Grape Fruit Crush	...	...	1	...	—
Ice Cream	...	...	1	...	—
Iced Lollipops	...	...	2	...	—
Iodine (tincture)	...	...	1	...	—
Jelly (table)	...	...	1	...	—
Milk	...	...	54	...	6
Meat (luncheon)	...	...	1	...	—
Paraffin (liquid)	...	...	1	...	—
Pepper (white)	...	...	1	...	—
Whiskey	...	...	1	...	—
Margarine	...	...	1	...	—
Total			83	...	7
			—	...	—

### Particulars of Non-standard Sample.

No.	Sample.	Result of Analysis.	Remarks.
1.	Milk (Channel Islands).	2.75% deficient in fat.	Retail sale. (See Nos. 2 to 6 inclusive). Full particulars sent to Ministry of Food in accordance with instruction contained in Circular M.F. 8/48.
2.	Milk (Channel Islands).	15% deficient in fat.	Sample taken from wholesaler who supplied the milk ready bottled to seller of No. 1. When full particulars were sent to the Ministry, they requested that samples of the milk should be taken in transit from the producer. (See Nos. 3, 4 & 5 incl).
3.	Milk (Channel Islands).	20% deficient in fat.	The samples were taken "in transit" from farmer to seller of No. 2. (See also No. 6).
4.	-do-	15% -do-	
5.	-do-	12.5% -do-	
6.	Milk (Channel Islands).	3.7% deficient in fat.	'Appeal to cow' sample taken at producer's farm re all above samples. The fact that the 'appeal to cow' sample was of inferior quality, coupled with proved inadequate mixing, resulted in Ministry of Food cautioning producer.



7. "Choc-Biscuit" Confectionery embedded in a piece of cane & containing extraneous dirt & moulds. This was of the usual toffee-apple type where a sweet is impaled on the end of a stick. The sample in question was submitted in order that the edible portion could be analysed, but on receiving it the County Analyst noticed that the stick was very dirty and he immediately telephoned suggesting that the remaining stock should be condemned. The local Sanitary Inspector was notified and the sale of the article stopped.

## SECTION F.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

- (1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases, with the notable exception of Measles, Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough, was low, as may be gathered from the following table:—

Incidence of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1953.

DISEASES.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever ... ..	107	102
Whooping Cough .. ..	272	13
Acute Poliomyelitis:		
Paralytic ... ..	2	2
Measles ... ..	411	19
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
Acute Pneumonia ... ..	9	5
Dysentery ... ..	—	—
Smallpox ... ..	—	—
Acute Encephalitis .. ..	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ... ..	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers .. ..	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	4	4
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	1	1
Food Poisoning ... ..	—	—
Other Notifiable Diseases ... ..	—	—
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>146</b>



Copies of reports on all pathological specimens submitted by the local Doctors to the Manchester Public Health Laboratory are received by me. These are of great value in that immediate preventive measures can be put in hand by the Health Department where needed.

## (2) TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25 „ ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 „ ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45 „ ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 „ ...	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65 „ ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	7	4	—	—	3	—	—	—

During 1953, 16 cases were admitted to and 17 discharged from Sanatoria.

Number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year:—

1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
243	257	272	238	244	229	229	232	230	190	218	199

**B.C.G. Protection against Tuberculosis.**—15 B.C.G. vaccinations of contacts to cases of tuberculosis in the N.R.D. have been carried out at the local Chest Clinic during 1953.

## (3) INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

During the year, all the Schools in the Council's area were inspected by the Public Health staff, with particular regard to:—

- (a) Canteens
- (b) Washing facilities
- (c) Sanitary accommodation
- (d) Refuse removal

Schools at Wincham, Utkinton, Tarporley, Rushton, Rudheath, Delamere and Barnton all showed some minor defects. These were reported to the County School Medical Authorities for attention.

**(4) DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.**

The disinfection of 213 premises was carried out during the year, as follows:—

For Vermin (using D.D.T. and "Gammexane")	...	39	houses
For Tuberculosis (plus steam disinfection of bedding)	... ..	16	„
For Infectious Diseases	... ..	158	„
Total		...	213

**(5) HAIRDRESSING ESTABLISHMENTS' SURVEY.**

In the interests of hygiene, the 26 established hairdressing saloons within the Council's area were inspected.

**(6) OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SURVEY.**

At the request of the County Medical Officer, a survey of the parish of Davenham, with an acreage of 1,638 and a population of 2,785, was carried out, when 988 premises were visited by the N.R.D. Council's staff, as follows:—

Houses	... ..	936
Farms, Nurseries, etc.	... ..	15
Factories (including building sites)	... ..	8
Hospital, Garages	... ..	3
Shops (including Cafes, Hotels, etc.)	... ..	26
Total		... 988

**(7) CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMP.**

In connection with a local industry Holiday Camp, the medical examination of some 153 mid-Cheshire school children was arranged for in August, 1953, prior to their departure to a North Wales Camp. 88 of the children were residents in the Northwich Rural District.

I would like to say, in closing this report, how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,  
May, 1954. Medical Officer of Health.

N.B.—The removal of the combined Divisional and M.O.H. Office from Whitehall to Hartford Hill, Darwin Street, Northwich, took place on 25th September, 1953.



